

CABINET – 18TH NOVEMBER 2021

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

ITEM 6 CHARNWOOD GRANTS - ROUND TWO 2021/22 CHARNWOOD COMMUNITY AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT APPLICATIONS

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Charnwood Grants - Round Two 2021/22 Charnwood Community and Community Facilities Grant Applications.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. It was considered that the recommended grant awards were most common within the more urban areas within the Borough.
- ii. The scoring matrix used by the awarding panel was complex and intended to ensure there was a differentiation between the bands used. This enabled the panel to assess criteria more fairly and recommend awards to the organisations that had scored the highest.
- iii. It was suggested that an increase in member knowledge could be achieved through member grants training, which would allow members to better assist organisations with their applications. It was highlighted that a better understanding of the criteria used would allow members to support organisations in the process.
- iv. It was suggested that the reasons for the decisions made on each application could be communicated with greater clarity. The feedback received from the awarding panel could including a note of reference to a specific criterion which had been satisfied or not.

- v. It was highlighted that there were two Voluntary and Community Sector officers working within the council who were able to assist organisations with applications and to advise members on the processes involved. The support offered by these officers was intended to maximise the opportunities of applicants.
- vi. When a grant application was declined, the organisation was advised on the reason for the decision and on potential ways to improve the application for the next round. In addition, they were signposted for further support from other sources.
- vii. It was highlighted that the grants process was time consuming and resource intensive. The awarding panel and the officers involved in the process had contributed a significant amount of time and effort to establish the recommendations set out.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Paper: Scrutiny Commission Minute 57 2021/22, 15th November 2021

Officer to Contact:

Sally Watson
Democratic Services Officer
(01509) 634969
Sally.watson@charnwood.gov.uk